

to an Internet Entry Server via said sponsor provided software;

c. prompting the user to answer a series of queries, with the answers forming said survey data as the user logs on to the Internet Entry Server via said sponsor provided software;

d. allowing the user to access the Internet for a predetermined time period via said sponsor provided software and said Internet Entry Server once the user has responded to all of the queries; and

e. initially hot linking said user to an Internet domain or Home Page of the sponsor upon initial Internet access.

22. A method of providing a sponsor paid Internet connect time allotment to a user while simultaneously collecting survey data for the sponsor comprising the steps of:

a. distributing sponsor provided Internet access software to the user;

b. providing a PIN number to the user which PIN number entitles the user to log on to an Internet Entry Server via said sponsor provided software;

c. prompting the user to answer a series of queries, with the answers forming said survey data as the user logs on to the Internet Entry Server via said sponsor provided software;

d. initially hot linking said user to an Internet domain or Home Page of the sponsor via said sponsor provided software and said Internet Entry Server upon initial Internet access;

e. conducting said user through a guided tour of the sponsor's Internet domain; and

f. allowing said user to browse other Internet sites via said sponsor provided software and said Internet Entry Server only after said guided tour is concluded.

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L1: Entry 17 of 17

File: USPT

May 5, 1998

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5749075 A

TITLE: Method for providing prepaid internet access and/or long distance calling including the distribution of specialized calling cards

Brief Summary Text (11):

The present invention is a method for distributing, by either retail sales, or in a sponsor promotion, a specialized telephone calling card. The calling card includes instructions on getting Internet access software and provides for a certain amount of Internet access time and/or long distance calling time. In the event of a sponsor promotion, the cards are distributed, e.g. by mail or in specially marked packages of the sponsor's products, free or at low cost. For retail sales, the specialized cards are sold at retail outlets or in other standard marketing techniques. In either case, the calling card includes a PIN number along with instructions on dialling a toll free number to either order some free or low cost Internet access software or make a long distance call. The toll free number connects him or her to an Enhanced Entry Server which can provide either standard long distance calling or a connection to the Internet. Once connected, the consumer is given verbal instructions on selecting either a long distance call or instructions for ordering the free or low cost software. If the option of receiving software is selected, the consumer is polled for name, address, etc., which is then associated with the assigned PIN number. The software, on a floppy disc or CD ROM, is then sent to the consumer along with instructions on installing and using the Internet access software on a personal computer (PC). Alternatively, the software can be directly downloaded to the consumer's PC. Telephone access to the Internet is accomplished by utilizing the Internet access time allocated by the calling card. The Internet access software accesses and "handshakes" with the Enhanced Entry Server, which verifies the PIN number, provides the access and times the user's access time. The Enhanced Entry Server is programmed to recognize the PIN number on the calling card as entitling the user to either a limited prepaid Internet access time and/or a time limited ordinary long distance call within the continental U.S. Typically a long distance time period could be 30 minutes, for example, while the Internet access can be for 1 or 2 hours or even days. If the consumer elects to use the calling card solely for long distance calling and does not order the Internet access software, then no further records are kept, but the calling time is treated as simply a consumer product or a sponsor giveaway. However, if the consumer orders the Internet access software and uses it to dial the Entry server, then the Enhanced Entry Server performs a registration process which includes a number of personal questions. Optionally, for sponsor paid cards, custom data is gathered by the Enhanced Entry Server in the form of queries provided by the sponsor for response by the user. The pertinent answers are then immediately provided to the sponsor. Also in sponsor paid promotions, the Enhanced Entry Server initially gives the user a mandatory "guided tour" of the sponsor's Home Page and domain where the user is exposed to any current product promotion by the sponsor and can download promotional coupons, product information, etc. After this mandatory guided tour is completed, the user is allowed to access other information on the sponsor's home page, and is then released to access any other information on the Internet. The Enhanced Entry Server also tracks the other Internet sites visited by the user during the allotted time period, which

information can often provide valuable marketing data. Finally, once the prepaid time period is up, the Enhanced Entry Server prompts the user with one or more of a plurality of options for extending the access period. For example, the user can be prompted to enter a credit card number to which access time will be charged; he or she can be given the opportunity to answer additional survey information in return for additional "free" or prepaid time; or a 900 subscriber paid telephone access number can be provided through which additional access will be billed via the normal telephone company 900 billing cycles.

Detailed Description Text (11):

FIG. 4 illustrates a block schematic diagram of a third option for refreshing the user's Internet time allotment. In this option, the user can access the EES via a "900" subscriber pay number where Internet access time will be billed through the user's telephone company 900 billing procedures. At block 51, the 900 number option is selected, whereupon the user logs off and, either immediately or at a future time, calls the assigned 900 number, using a touch-tone telephone. The 900 call proceeds through normal call channels including, at blocks 52 and 53, respectively, the user's local central office and long distance carrier, terminating at an EES linked audiotext computer system at block 54. At block 55 the EES assigns a new PIN number, or, alternatively, at block 61, prompts the entry of the old, originally assigned PIN number. At block 62, the PIN information is used to open a new account. Finally, at block 63, billing is done via normal long distance carrier and/or telephone company 900 billing procedures at a billing rate provided by the EES. Subsequent to access time being credited to user, he logs on via new or refreshed PIN. For sponsor provided cards, at block 64, Internet access screens are provided which preferably include the sponsor's logo or other information and a hot-link option to access the sponsor's domain with each log-on by the user. Again, the time consumed by the user in visiting the sponsor's domain can be provided free of charge.

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L1: Entry 14 of 17

File: USPT

Jul 17, 2001

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6263439 B1

TITLE: Verification system for non-traditional learning operationsDetailed Description Text (42):

If the proceed option is elected, then the database is checked for the registrant's record 740 followed by course sign on consisting of the identification of the participant (name) and assigned "pin" number 750. If a mis-match is detected, then the user is placed back to the main menu 610 However, if a match is found 760, then the registrant is permitted to review the access web page 780 with links to the course and personal information 780 as seen in FIG. 1F. Upon activation of the selected course 800, the material 810 is downloaded 830 in a format suitable for printing, e.g., PDF format, capable of being read by for example, by Acrobat Reader, a shareware product. An optional neuron plugin is available for electronic mail and Internet access 840, the neuron plugin being an enhancement to a browser, e.g., Netscape.RTM., which is a "run-time" version of a management software product by Asymetric.RTM. Toolbook. The neuron plugin allows an end-user to download a course to a hard drive for viewing off-line at a later time. This plugin additionally allows the end-user to directly link to the Internet where all assessment and testing is performed in an on-line environment. After reviewing the course content, the applicant moves to the testing phase to determine the mastery of the subject matter 820. In a manner analogous to that described previously, various questions are answered 850 with subsequent grading 860 and data archived 870. The course provider may cross-check for registrant payment 880 with notification of the accrediting agency 890. If a problem exists with the payment of the course, the registrant is notified 900 by E-mail, form letter, fax, etc., which if resolved in an appropriate manner 910, will result in the notification of the accrediting agency 890.

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L1: Entry 15 of 17

File: USPT

Jul 3, 2001

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6256614 B1

TITLE: Internet system for producing electronic reward cards

CLAIMS:

4. The internet method of claim 3 wherein there is an audio message corresponding to each pin number which is stored in the telephone company's data base; and when the user uses the assigned pin and telephone access numbers to make a free telephone call the telephone company plays back the associated audio message stored in its data base to the user.

12. The internet method of claim 11 wherein there is an audio message corresponding to each pin number which is stored in the telephone company's data base; and when the user uses the assigned pin and telephone access numbers to make a free telephone call the telephone company includes means for playing back the associated audio message stored in its data base to the user.

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L1: Entry 16 of 17

File: USPT

Jun 30, 1998

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5774869 A

TITLE: Method for providing sponsor paid internet access and simultaneous sponsor promotion

Detailed Description Text (8):

FIG. 4 illustrates a block schematic diagram of a third option for refreshing the user's Internet time allotment. In this option, the user can access the IES via a "900" subscriber pay number where Internet access time will be billed through the user's telephone company 900 billing procedures. At block 51, the 900 number option is selected, whereupon the user logs off and, either immediately or at a future time, calls the assigned 900 number, using a touchtone telephone. The 900 call proceeds through normal call channels including, at blocks 52 and 53, respectively, the user's local central office and long distance carrier, terminating at an IES linked audiotext computer system at block 54. At block 55 the IES assigns a new PIN number, or, alternatively, at block 61, prompts the entry of the old, originally assigned PIN number. At block 62, the PIN information is used to open a new account. Finally, at block 63, billing is done via normal long distance carrier and/or telephone company 900 billing procedures at a billing rate provided by the IES. Subsequent to access time being credited to user, he logs on via new or refreshed PIN. At block 64, Internet access screens are provided which preferably include the sponsor's logo or other information and a hot-link option to access the sponsor's domain with each log-on by the user. Again, the time consumed by the user in visiting the sponsor's domain can be provided free of charge.

CLAIMS:

1. A method of providing a sponsor paid Internet connect time allotment to a user while simultaneously collecting survey data for the sponsor comprising the steps of:

a. distributing sponsor provided Internet access software to the user;

b. providing a PIN number to the user which PIN number entitles the user to log on to an Internet Entry Server via said sponsor provided software;

c. prompting the user to answer a series of queries, with the answers forming said survey data as the user logs on to the Internet Entry Server via said sponsor provided software; and

d. allowing the user to access the Internet for a predetermined time via said sponsor provided software and said Internet Entry Server once the user has responded to all of the queries.

12. A method of providing a sponsor paid Internet connect time allotment to a user while simultaneously collecting survey data for the sponsor comprising the steps of:

a. distributing sponsor provided Internet access software to the user;

b. providing a PIN number to the user which PIN number entitles the user to log on

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L1: Entry 12 of 17

File: USPT

Apr 2, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6367010 B1

TITLE: Method for generating secure symmetric encryption and decryption

Detailed Description Text (7):

The recipient first signs up at a sender's web-site for a secure session and initiates subscription/setup in step 2. The recipient may sign up using a conventional web browser such as the Internet Explorer 4.0/5.0 (believed to be a registered Trademark of Microsoft Corp.) or Netscape Navigator (believed to be a registered Trademark of Netscape, Inc.). A user-PIN is then assigned (either through the recipient providing the user-PIN or the sender assigning one) to the recipient/user. Preferably, the user-PIN should have a minimum number of characters (recommended minimum is between 4 to 20 characters) that will allow the recipient to easily memorize and remember the user-PIN.

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